
Title: Postulations II

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Contained within are a series of postulative exercises by Professor Archae Titus of the Lycaeum with a series of possibilities of how things can go wrong.

In Moonglow

The whole point of the city-based Virtues system was that none of the cities could fairly claim supremacy. Not in Virtue, not in independence, not in economy, not in anything. They were all needed in Virtue, all needed in everything. It was the sum that was important.

Moonglow had the Lycaeum, the most-famous school of everything, including both magic and Virtue. Moonglow, therefore, should have especially-known that it was but one of many, part of a whole, and neither greater nor less than any other parts.

But, without a center the margins could cluster around, even Moonglow, even the faculty of the Lycaeum, had started to forget. And, it seemed, their new curriculum was tailored to making sure that generations of their students would also forget.

The faculty's intent in instituting the new curriculum, or so they said, was to ensure that the unity in the realm of Virtue itself, and of the

Virtues as a system,
survived in this time
when the realm splintered.
But the content of that
curriculum would have
raised many eyebrows in
the capital, had there
been anyone left in the
central government to pay
much attention. It flatly
stated the supremacy of
Moonglow, as the home of
knowledge of the Virtues
and of pretty much
everything, over the other
cities. It taught the
supremacy of Honesty
over the other Virtues.
Indeed, Honesty was to be
taught as the cornerstone
of the Virtue System.
This was a near-heresy
to how the Virtues had
been taught hitherto,
which had Humility as the
cornerstone.

And Lord Blackthorn's
Chaos was to be not
taught at the Lycaeum at
all. Erased from official
history.

"This is," the one
dissenter among the
faculty complained in a
meeting, "taking Pride in
our Virtue. And that is
the the worst Sin there
is."

"Oh nonsense," one of
his colleagues said,
condescendingly. It didn't
matter which one it was;
to the dissenter, they all
seemed to have one voice.

"You can still teach
what you want in your
own classroom, of course.
But collectively we must
speak with Honesty!" A
direct but exceedingly
polite assault on the
dissenter's Virtue. "And
Honesty is respect for
Truth. And this? This is
Truth."

"No," said the
dissenter, "it is Pride."

“Nonsense,” said another colleague. Funny how they both used the same word.

“Of course we are superior. We pass the knowledge of the Virtues.”

“We are the center,” someone else agreed.

“The other Virtues, the other cities, they exist only at the margins.”

The dissenter continued to protest, but he was clearly out-voted. His colleagues, it must be said, were more polite than one would expect as they quieted him down and voted in the curriculum. It did not pass unanimously, but he was the sole vocal dissenter.

Ironically it was that sole dissenter who was robbed and murdered by a common brigand a few weeks after the curriculum vote. The brigand got all of 50 gold pieces, enough for a few loaves of bread, out of the crime.

His colleagues, in their memories, decided he had supported them all along.